2nd March 1928]

A.—(*a*) The Chief Presidency Magistrate has passed orders prohibiting the executive of the 'Simon Boycott Propaganda Committee' and fifteen persons including five Members of the Madras Legislative Council from taking certain steps including publication of leaflets, posters and other propaganda with the object of advocating hartal or suspension of business in connexion with the visit of the Statutory Commission.

(*b*) Yes; from the 7th February 1928 to 6th March 1928.

(*c*) The Statutory Commission arrived in this Presidency on 23rd February and is expected to leave it on 7th March 1928.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

Disturbances in the Madras City on 3rd February 1928.

* 1684 *Q.*—MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government were aware—

(1) that there would be 'hartal' on the 3rd February;

(2) that there were two parties, one for 'hartal' and boycott of the Simon Commission and the other against boycott and 'hartal'; and

(3) that there were friction, disturbance and even assaults between the two parties on the beach, etc., before the 3rd instant;

(*b*) what action they took to prevent such further disturbances on the 3rd instant;

(*c*) why they did not take effective measures to prevent the incidents of the 3rd instant;

(*d*) what compensation the Government propose to give to the victims for the damages, etc., they had suffered at the hands of the rowdies;

(*e*) what punishments the Government propose to mete out to the perpetrators of the crimes of the 3rd instant; and

(*f*) what action the Government propose to take to prevent such incidents in future and also to compensate the victims of such hooliganism in future?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 166, Public, dated 23rd February 1928, placed on the Editors' table.

(*e*) The persons arrested in connexion with the riots have already been or will be put up for trial before the courts. The Government do not propose to take any other action except as indicated in the last sub-paragraph of paragraph 7 of G.O. No. 166, Public, dated 23rd February 1928.

(*f*) The action to be taken will depend upon the circumstances in each case. As regards the latter part of the clause, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraph 7 of G.O. No 166, Public, dated 23rd February 1928.